

Kimbleworth & Plawsworth P a r i s h & C o u n c i l

Kimbleworth and Plawsworth Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Kimbleworth and Plawsworth Parish Council held remotely via Skype, on Thursday, 12 November 2020 @ 7:00pm.

Present: Councillors – Cole, Hilland, Hodgson, Jackson, Kendall (in part) and Rippon.

Also in attendance – John Kelly (Parish Clerk).

1. Welcome:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Written apologies were received from Cllr Craig. County Councillor Wilson also gave apologies.

Resolved: *Apologies for the above Parish Councillors were noted by the Council.*

3. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

No interests declared.

4. Minutes of Council meeting – 08 October 2020:

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 08 October 2020 were approved as a true record by the Council, subject to two amendments: to note that a 'prescription of easement' (described when discussing the public rights of way item) is granted to the owner of an individual property, not a group of people; and that Councillor Jackson gave verbal apologies (due to unforeseen circumstances) – the parish council has always asked for written apologies before noting in minutes. The clerk advised the standing orders do not ask for these to be in writing and suggested this be discussed as an amendment in May 2021 and/or that an apologies policy could be created in future. In the interim, the Council agreed written apologies should continue, and this can include an email to the Clerk.

5. Police Report:

No PCSOs were in attendance. PCSO Payne asked that the most recent PACT report for October be circulated with the agenda (acting as his update). All councillors advised they had read the PACT report.

6. **Parish Matters and on-going items:**

a) County Councillors Report

Councillor Wilson (not present) has requested permission from DCC to place a planter under the new Plawsworth sign. He has also requested a quote for a traffic survey on the A167 at the crossing and enquired whether solar lights would be an option along the multi-use path. The Parish Council enquired about recent section 106 planning money (£87,238 for the new builds at Cross Lane and £5,695 for Plawsworth Farm) – the Clerk has enquired with Councillor Liddle who continues to look at quotes for fencing at Ugly Lane football field. Councillor Liddle has also advised money could be made available to support the spring project but it is important the Parish Council obtain quotes as soon as possible so finance can be considered. Other projects in the electoral division can and have applied for section 106 money too.

[Councillor Kendall joined the meeting during this discussion].

Councillor Liddle had sent the Clerk an update for the Council regarding the Food for Thought project – Sacriston Youth Project is taking over as the lead organization. They are distributing 100 Christmas Day lunch packs this year, along with the Salvation Army and Kimblesworth and Nettlesworth Task Force. A Christmas toy appeal has also been made. The new email address for queries about both lunch packs and toys is: christmas@sacristonyouthproject.co.uk Cllr Cole enquired whether every door in the parish had received correspondence regarding the free hot meals at the start of the first lockdown. The Clerk advised any resident can refer someone they feel is vulnerable and/or requires these meals – either direct to Food for Thought or to the Kimblesworth and Nettlesworth Task Force. The referred resident can then decline any offers of help if they wish.

Resolved: *Councillors Wilson and Liddle to update on all queries at the next meeting.*

b) Community Centre Report

Plawsworth and Kimblesworth Community Association (PKCA) has given permission to site a Christmas Tree on community centre land (Nettlesworth) within visibility line of their CCTV cameras. The placing of the tree will take place late November. The Clerk will liaise with the centre.

Resolved: *To note update.*

c) Planning Applications

- None

Resolved: *Nothing to resolve.*

d) Allotments

The Council received an update on new tenancies –plots 25 and 26 have been allocated (new posts were installed between the plots by Cllr Craig and the Clerk). Both have been allocated in date order. Plot 12a has been allocated to the only person remaining on the waiting list at point of offer. Cllr Cole enquired about a resident who stated he had not been contacted since being added to the list in early 2019. The Clerk advised he had spoken to the resident who was offered the half plot, 12a (last remaining plot) but he was happy to wait for a full plot in 2021 and is currently top of the waiting list. A further two residents have been in touch to be added to the list, so there are now three waiting. Pest control will be attending the site every six weeks following their initial weekly visits (next visit due late November). The Clerk has deposited £752 rents to the Council bank account, with all plot rents collected.

Resolved: To note updates.

e) Highways and road signage

Mill Lane will be closed daytimes of the 16th November and 30th November (due to a railway bridge check and BT work respectively) and details have been posted to the Council's Facebook page. Holmhill Lane will be closed by day from 24th to 26th November, so BT can replace poles. The road from Tan Hills to the A167 will have traffic lights in place from 13th to 23rd to allow NPower to install a new connection. Following recent speed watches at Nettlesworth, police will be carrying out a check with speed cameras one day in December.

Resolved: To note update.

f) Budget 2021-22

The Clerk presented the first draft of the budget for 2021-22 and asked for councillors to consider what may be required next year. The final draft will be approved in January 2021, along with the precept.

Resolved: To note update.

g) Spring/ water trough at the roadside, Nettlesworth entrance (west)

The Council discussed the potential story, design and dedication of the feature. It was agreed the dedication will be 'Community'. This will allow the final design to be flexible and can incorporate multiple items from the areas past. The Clerk advised that until the Council agree on the size of the project, it may be difficult to obtain quotes (and, therefore, funding) but regardless, the Spring Working Group should be looking to gather quotes on a range of items eg bench, sitting area, refurbishment of the trough, planting etc. County Councillor Wilson will also need to liaise again with DCC planning and assets regarding suggested plans for the site. Councillor Hodgson will continue to look at funding applications.

Resolved: The new feature will be dedicated to 'Community'.

h) Christmas Tree 2020

The tree will be sited within view of the community centre's CCTV. It has been suggested by the centre to place on the brow of the hill so it can be seen best from the road. The Clerk advised it needed to be set back from the road in line with permission sought from DCC Highways. Changing Lives have offered to provide a van and two staff to collect the tree and assist the Clerk to install the tree.

Resolved: The Council agreed to accept the offer from Changing Lives to collect and deliver the tree.

i) Planters

The Council will add costs to the budget for 2021-22 for a planter in West Nettlesworth and Plawsworth but a planter may be donated for Plawsworth and only costs of plants will be required. Permission has been sought from DCC regarding site at Plawsworth under the new village sign, but no response has been given yet. The planting area at Hillmeads/Tanmeads (Nettlesworth) was not discussed.

Resolved: The Council agreed to consider additional budget for planters in 2021-22 – this part of the budget had been reduced last year but if two new planters are required (currently three exist in the villages) then this will be increased again. Item on Hillmeads/Tanmeads area that is not maintained will be deferred to December meeting. Residents in the immediate vicinity were sent a letter asking for their views for the planting area.

j) Salt bins

The Council discussed the request made earlier in the year for a salt bin at Boyntons, Nettlesworth. The item was deferred in March 2020 as better weather emerged. Durham County Council had rejected an application for a bin following a safety assessment. The Parish Council believe a bin is still required and agreed funding of £196 for a bin and £96 for one a 'refill'. One refill a year will be budgeted, and residents will need to let the Parish Council know if salt is depleted. The installation is still subject to a new assessment by DCC, who carry out a further assessment against a lower criterion. The Clerk will arrange this second assessment.

Resolved: *The Council agreed to purchase a salt bin to be placed at Boyntons. The Clerk will arrange a site visit with DCC.*

k) KPPC logo

The Council reconsidered the creation of a new logo for the parish council and the process for doing this (originally agreed November 2019). Nettlesworth Primary School will be asked to run a competition for the creation of this logo.

Resolved: *The Council agreed the school should provide entries from pupils, from which the Council will agree on the future logo. Clerk to contact the Headteacher.*

l) Wooden carving and bench

The Council discussed the offer from a resident to create a carving for the Nettlesworth area alongside a bench (a place of interest). The Council agreed to approve a carving to be placed in Nettlesworth and designs will be brought to the next meeting. The Clerk suggested that other carvings at Ugly Lane and the PRoW to the fells at Waldrige could attract funding to improve the paths and the road. Councillor Kendall suggested this be an item at a future meeting for fuller discussion.

Resolved: *The Council accepted the donation of the carving and will approve a design at December's meeting. A budget of £100 was approved for any materials (eg varnish).*

m) KPPC Newsletter

The Clerk requested items for the Christmas newsletter. Items so far include information on loan sharks and scams from DCC, the successful re-routing of the X20 bus service, PACT data). Ongoing work regarding the Water Spring and allotments will be referenced.

Resolved: *To note update and provide any suggestions to the Clerk.*

n) Training

- None

Resolved: *Nothing to resolve.*

o) Correspondence

- Litter on land behind Eureka Mews – further correspondence with Northern Gas
- X20 substantive change to bus route (from DCC).
- Pension Regulator – registration for staff pensions.
- Durham Cathedral – request for donation.

Resolved: Correspondence noted:- Northern Gas have contacted the Parish Council again to advise the anti-climb fence will be installed around Christmas, if not just after; DCC confirmed the X20 route was now confirmed as a permanent change (to run through Kimblesworth on evenings and Sundays, coming from Durham); the Clerk advised that the former clerk had not registered the Parish Council as having 'no pensions' in 2017 with the Pension Regulator, and a letter had now been received – the Clerk has registered KPPC with the regulator now; and Durham Cathedral has requested a donation due to the financial shortfall it was experiencing in 2020 due to the pandemic. Cllr Jackson noted that the cathedral was the single most important feature to Durham and its history and that all surrounding areas should support it. Cllr Cole queried whether the Cathedral was an ecclesiastical organization, in which case guidance for parish councils suggested that funding should not be given. The Clerk advised Durham Cathedral was a registered charity in its own right and that although religious services took place in its grounds and members of its governance structure were from the Church of England, it was a separate entity in terms of funding. The Church of England are just one of many funders that donate to Durham Cathedral. Subject to the Clerk checking this with CDALC, the Council unanimously agreed to donate £100 to Durham Cathedral.

7. Financial Matters:

a) Payments

Resolved: The following payments were agreed (and invoices will be signed by the Chair at the next meeting held in person):

- (1) The sum of £313.62 was paid to J Kelly (Clerk service, 1st – 31st October, 34 hours)
- (2) The sum of £3.49 be paid to J Kelly (HP ink, October)
- (3) The sum of £20.00 be paid to J Kelly (two padlocks - allotments)
- (4) The sum of £105.49 be paid to J Kelly (plants and water crystals)
- (5) The sum of £109.97 be paid to J Kelly (Christmas lights)
- (6) The sum of £59.99 be paid to J Kelly (Microsoft annual renewal)
- (7) The sum of £560.00 be paid to Beamish Pest Control (September 2020-August 2021)

b) Receipts

Resolved: The following receipts were noted and will be signed by the Chair at the next meeting in person:

- PAYE (to HMRC) October hours, November submission (£78.40)
- Printer subscription with HP - see item 7(a)2. above (£3.49)
- Padlocks for allotments – see item 7(a)3. above (£20.00)
- Plants – see item 7(a)4. above (£100.00)
- Water crystals (for plants) – see item 7(a)4. above (£5.49)
- Outdoor lights (for Christmas tree) – see item 7(a)5. above (£109.97)

c) Bank statements and direct debits

Resolved:

Statements checked:

- September 2020 – received and will be signed at the next meeting held in person.

Direct debits (and standing orders) checked by the Chair and to be signed at next meeting held in person:

- HMRC (October payment) – checked on September statement (paid 1st October)
- Anglian Water trading as Wave (quarterly) – checked on September statement

The Chair noted that any underpayments of PAYE to HRMC, resulting from the monthly set amount for the bank standing order (£65), will be cleared at year-end.

8. **Date of Next Meeting**

10 December 2020 to commence at 7.00pm.

The meeting terminated at 8.46pm.

Chairman

Date